

THE UNIVERSAL POST

Suppression is Cairo's Tool

RIGID CENSORSHIP AND UNTOLD RESTRICTIONS

This is the second of a series of our witness stories on conditions in Egypt. The author, a Canadian correspondent, arrived in Tel Aviv from Cairo on Wednesday.

By DONALD GORDON

Egypt is pushing its last gasps as far as it will go in its policy of the United Nations, being forced into the country. The most recent news item, right now, is that the Egyptian government has been forced to release the day-to-day details of operations in the Suez area.

There were some of the news we were waiting for when we visited U.S. headquarters in Cairo and the most remarkable point at that moment was the quietness of the day-to-day details of operations in the Suez area.

All "V" planes coming in had to come with special permission from Brigadier Aspin Holley, the Egyptian commanding officer. In an interview Brigadier Holley made it clear that the Egyptians intended to interpret this provision as applying to movements of all U.S. troops in Egypt.

The news has arrived, there are not allowed to leave their base camp without permission from the Egyptian commander. This has not been granted to us. Soldiers are subject to Egyptian censorship. U.S. officers are allowed only to communicate with an Egyptian military official.

Attempts have been made to make propaganda among the U.S. forces. At a special film-show given the night before we visited the Abu Qir camp, a representative of the Ministry of National Guidance appeared and added several Egyptian words to his speech in the telephoned U.S. short subjects. Major C. W. Elster, the Swedish commander of the U.S. forces, told me he was not consulted by the Egyptians.

"We were given no warning," said the U.S. command only heard about it from the men after they had seen the film.

World is With Them

Correspondents officially accredited to the U.S. forces are subject to rigorous Egyptian censorship. Press copy is butchered by censors. Several correspondents have had pre-Egyptian material added to their stories. Anyone wishing to move out of Cairo must have permission from the National Guidance Ministry and a special "guide" to conduct him. Despite this, highly-privileged Arabic documents, soldiers outside the city stop you at will. The U.S. credentials are always ignored completely.

Several Egyptian officers boasted openly to us that Egypt intends to use the U.N. force as auxiliaries to close the British, French and Israeli port of the country.

"The world is on our side," one said. "We intend to win full advantage of it."

One correspondent told me that he had talked to an Egyptian soldier who boasted of being a judge and had freely how he had part in saving the British plane which crashed after the cross-fire was over. He claimed to have killed "many British soldiers" and offered a British officer's pistol as evidence.

It is not likely that these raids will be continued on any large scale. Besides a noisy announcement that was not made past the correspondents' ears, each evening and about 50 tanks were at strategic points throughout Cairo, much of the Egyptian mechanized equipment appears to have been damaged or destroyed.

Roads to and from the Suez area are littered with burned-out tanks and trucks. On both the Cairo and Abu Qir airfields are huge piles of burned-out jets and transport

MUSICAL DIARY

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Tel Aviv, November 20.

George Szell, conductor; Simon Stebbins, piano; Ofer Ben-Haim, Tel Aviv, November 20.

With his new work, "The Soviet Psalmist of Israel," which received its first performance, Paul Ben-Haim has raised the mastery of a composer who, when writing a work, knows exactly how it will actually sound. Indeed, the new composition's main quality is the originality and skill he displayed in using the instruments of the harpsichord and keyboard. The soloists were Arieh Shani and Klari Stein-Wolpeles. So well as with the orchestra.

We found the last of the three movements — a set of variations, the most compelling, Mr. Shani, who conducted with the greatest energy and the orchestra played the work with real devotion.

The Concert opened with Horowitz's Symphony No. 22 in D-major, which, in spite of the Conductor's own, sounded somewhat heavy, and ended with a movement by the young Simon Frishman.

In protest against the suggestion of the Ministry of Education and Culture that Richard Strauss' "Don Juan" not be played, the orchestra did not perform it by any other name, with the obvious approval of the authorities.

AVIDON

Jerusalem Chamber Music Society with the assistance of the Friends of Jerusalem

Third Concert, October 2, 1956, at the Hebrew University Auditorium, Tel Aviv.

Wednesday, October 2, 1956, at the Hebrew University Auditorium, Tel Aviv.

A small number of performances by the Friends of the Arts.

"But there is no reason," he said, "why communists in power would be certain to be far more violent. But if, by itself, our democracy is for our country, and we feel it is at least morally forced to carry out the deportations and actions against the U.N. in order to satisfy the extremists who are

planning well over 100 in all.

The equipment we did see was of Russian, Czech or British make. Most of it was in poor operating condition and well handled by crews, and seemed to be fairly new. It was well hidden too. From a plane flying over Cairo it was impossible to see any of the military installations.

Americans Also Blamed

The little opposition which does exist against the current regime is well-organized and powerful. One of the most prominent is the Moslem Brotherhood, which has recently arrived immigrants to Israel from Arab countries. No longer priests and sheikhs, the well-organized survivors identically patterned in each group a combination of "old

and new."

You can blame the Americans too. Until they left a few weeks ago, there was always a chance for the Moslem Brotherhood to hold things back. Even now,

they have managed so far to keep the Moslem Brotherhood from turning the deportations into a blood bath.

An American professor working in Cairo agreed. His comment: "The State Department has done some good things, but none of them have deeply ashamed of their actions.

Parliamentary Review

Friends and Foes

IT is unlikely that when Mr. Ben-Gurion, the Herut Knesset member, read in a Paris newspaper towards the end of October that Mr. Ben-Gurion had withdrawn a statement he had made to Mr. Ben-Gurion in the House, he packed his bags on the spot because he deduced we must be on the verge of war. But whatever further dangers may loom, the Prime Minister is unlikely to withdraw his statement for Mr. Ben-Gurion last week.

This is not only because it is difficult to imagine any arrangement under which the Communists might give the Government their support, but because it has always irritated him that there should be members sitting in the Knesset, and enjoying the privileges and immunities of the Knesset's elected representatives, who not only hold different views as to what is good for this country — which is forgivable under certain circumstances if obnoxious — but who are primarily interested in the future of Israel at all, but in that of a particular ideology and form of government.

One reason for his outburst may have been that he failed to carry out a slight amendment to the status of Knesset members which he sought to introduce during the past weeks. One of the special privileges of the members is that they are entitled at any time to "resign" during a war to receive service (i.e. official) passports immediately upon application, together with a special recommendation to any foreign consular representative whose country they may wish to visit. Right in the middle of the General Zionists' two Communist members announced that they were going to the Stockholm Peace Conference, and received their passports in good order. The Conference was postponed and they did not go, and in the minds of most people it could make precious little difference if Israel was to be denounced there as an aggressor whether these denunciations had the verbal or only the written support of the Israeli Communists.

Nevertheless, it pointed up the fact that ever since the old League of Nations outlawed "war" as such, the conflict between the nations has been fought under some other title, ranging from the seven-year

to the Progressive Minister of Justice, who is notoriously uncomfortable in any government of which he is the only non-labor member. It is not believed that Mr. Ben-Gurion or his party feel any urge to see the return of their old coalition partners, who would in any case be likely to become involved in conflicts with the dogmatic socialists of Mapam.

In one wifely aside, the head nurse, a pretty girl from Beirut, was bandaging a baby held by an Egyptian assistant. Her trim white uniform stood out in contrast to the black and purple robes of the mothers who were often glistened through black veiling. Babies are weighed every fortnight until their second birthday. From cradle to grave, (except that deaths are rarely reported) the refugees benefit from no less kindly, and with no less regard for Jewish dignity, than such elaborate measures should be brought into being against an animal which, unlike the human race, has never harmed a Jew with intent. We are now in possession of a remarkable ordinance which permits local authorities to ban or restrict pig-breeding and/or the sale of pork products, and no doubt by-laws will be enacted in due course to prevent non-Jewish Jews to obey the ancient injunction against the flesh of swine.

The coalition parties who were committed to support the measure went into the campaign to get the controversial by-laws passed. An anti-pork law out of the way, the voting was on, and everything ran smoothly, to a content vote of alternative parties.

IN other matters the General Zionists have been mild and pliant. At least while the emergency is over, if it is now not defined as such by law — they have overcome their former hostility at voting with the Government on matters where they are in agreement with the Government's policy, which is surely a sign of growing political maturity and party confidence. In replying for his party to the Stamp law last week the usually wobbly Mr. Saphir gave such a hitherto unprecedented support to the need for funds to sacrifice to pay for Sinai. His speech was followed by a large "but" criticizing the proposed provisions. The but never came, and Mr. Saphir merely soon galloped off on his habitual and legitimate hobby-horse, arguing that the whole of the Arab world is wasteful and heavy and needs trimming. And who would not support him there? His attitude lent support to the impression that the General Zionists are feeling increasingly frustrated at being out of the Government, and would gladly return. The shadow of this desire union is Mr. Pinhas Rosen.

Letters

AMERICAN ZIONISM

Editor, The Jerusalem Post Sir: — The events of the last few weeks have vividly demonstrated once again that American public opinion constitutes a crucial battlefield in Israel's struggle for survival. The tragic and disastrous policy of Washington in relation to the unfolding elements in the Middle East, which gave promise of the establishment of a climate of peace on a lasting basis between Arab and Jew, and the preservation of this vital region for the Free World may be attributed in part to the failure of American Zionists to bring home the exact facts of the situation to the American public and their fellow Jews. I do not wish to imply that the American Zionists did not try. I am merely calling attention to the fact that they failed.

In my opinion, the responsibility for this failure lies at the door of the highly indoctrinated Government and its agents.

It is not enough to condemn the Zionists for failing to do their duty, but the critics of the American Zionists, by young men, have been equally responsible for the "unjust" faces discredited.

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